

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-10
/093 W

-----161400Z 016770 /45

R 160955Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 603
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 2091

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, SW, US, XZ, ILO, EAD
SUBJECT: AFL-CIO DELEGATION IN STOCKHOLM

SUMMARY: AFL-CIO DELEGATION WAS CORDIALLY RECEIVED AND
WELL CARED FOR BY SWEDISH UNION HOSTS DESPITE COUNTRY'S
CURRENT LABOR CRISIS. VISIT PRODUCED ENHANCED GOOD
WILL, AN AFFIRMATION OF SUPPORT FOR US POSITION AT ILO
AND A FIRST STEP TOWARDS POSSIBLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
COOPERATION IN AFRICA AND ASIA. END SUMMARY

1. A HIGH-LEVEL AFL-CIO DELEGATION WAS IN STOCKHOLM
MAY 12-14 ON FIRST STAGE OF 11-DAY FRATERNAL VISIT TO
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SCANDINAVIAN CAPITALS AND HELSINKI ON THE INVITATION
OF THE COUNCIL OF NORDIC TRADE UNIONS. DELEGATION
WAS LED BY HARRY POOLE, PRESIDENT, AMALGAMATED
MEATCUTTERS AND BUTCHER WORKMEN OF NORTH AMERICA, AND
CONSISTED IN ADDITION OF JOSEPH POWER, PRESIDENT,
OPERATIVE PLASTERERS AND CEMENT MASONS INTERNATIONAL
UNION, WILLIAM MARSHALL, PRESIDENT, MICHIGAN STATE

AFL-CIO, AND MARK ANDERSON, AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE.

2. DELEGATION ARRIVED IN MIDST OF WORST LABOR CRISIS EXPERIENCED BY SWEDEN IN MANY DECADES BUT SITUATION IN NO WAY DETRACTED FROM ATTENTION AND HOSPITALITY OF SWEDISH HOSTS, LO AND TCO--AND, IF ANYTHING, ADDED GREATLY TO FLAVOR OF VISIT. THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATED QUALLY IN ARRANGING THE PROGRAM. LO PRESIDENT GUNNAR NILSSON AND TCO PRESIDENT LENNART BODSTROM ENTERTAINED DELEGATION AT DINNERS AND EACH CHAIRED LENGTHY SESSIONS AT WHICH SWEDES AND AMERICANS COMPARED NOTES IN LIVELY FASHION ON LABOR CONDITIONS AND PRACTICES AND UNION PHILOSOPHIES IN THE TWO COUNTRIES. AT SEVERAL JUNCTURES, POOLE VOICED HIS ADMIRATION FOR EXTENSIVE SWEDISH SOCIAL WELFARE SYSTEM AND MANNER OF DEALING WITH LABOR MARKET PROBLEMS TO OBVIOUS APPRECIATION OF HIS HOSTS. POWER WAS LIFE OF THE PARTY. WARM-SPIRITED AND POSSESSING A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS SUPPLY OF HUMOROUS ANECDOTES, HE EASILY BROKE THROUGH NORMAL SWEDISH RESERVE AND CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO EASE AND INFORMALITY OF ATMOSPHERE. SEVERAL SWEDES TOLD LABATT AFTERWARD HOW MUCH THEY LIKED OPENNESS, CANDOR AND FRIENDLINESS OF AMERICAN VISITORS. CHARGE ALSO HELD RECEPTION FOR GUESTS WHICH WAS WELL-ATTENDED BY SWEDISH LABOR COMMUNITY. ALL IN ALL, GOOD WILL PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS FULLY ACHIEVED.

3. ILO QUESTION WAS RAISED WITH NILSSON AND HE RESPONDED WITH STRONGLY POSITIVE STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF AMERICAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AIMS. HE SAID THAT SWEDISH LABOR MOVEMENT IS WORRIED IN GENERAL ABOUT FUTURE OF ILO AND PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT REASON FOR THIS WORRY IS UNCERTAINTY OVER WHAT US WILL DO. US DECISION WILL BE VITAL TO ILO, HE ADDED. NILSSON RECALLED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH GEORGE MEANY AT BAL HARBOUR ABOUT A YEAR AGO AND TOLD HIM THEN THAT TO FULLY SHARED AFL-CIO VIEWS ON WHAT IS WRONG WITH ILO AND IS EAGER TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THESE DIFFICULTIES. NILSSON CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE BELIEVED HE WAS ALSO SPEAKING FOR TCO.

4. THORBJORN CARLSSON, LO'S CHIEF INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND SWEDISH WORKER DELEGATE TO ILO CONFERENCE, ALSO COMMENTED THAT ONE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LO AND AFL-CIO DOES EXIST ON QUESTION OF ILO. DIFFERENCE IS NOT IN ATTITUDE TOWARDS ILO PROBLEMS BUT ON HOW TO MANAGE THEM. HE WENT ON TO ARGUE THAT REGARDLESS OF WHAT HAPPENS AFL-CIO SHOULD REMAIN IN ILO AND FIGHT FOR CHANGES THAT BOTH AFL-CIO AND LO DESIRE. IF US PULLS OUT,

HE SAID, THIS WILL RESULT IN VERY REGRETTABLE
WEAKENING OF BF DEMOCRATIC FRONT WITHIN ORGANIZATION
AND GREATLY REDUCE CHANCES OF SOLVING ITS PROBLEMS.

5. ON WAY TO AIRPORT DEPARTURE, ANDERSON TOLD LABATT
THAT HE HAD SPOKEN PRIVATELY AND AT SOME LENGTH TO
CARLSSON AND HIS TCO COUNTERPART, SVEN FOCKSTEDT,
ABOUT POSSIBILITIES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
COOPERATION IN AFRICA AND ASIA. BOTH APPEARED
INTERESTED, ANDERSSON SAID, AND AGREED WITH HIS
SUGGESTION TO PURSUE MATTER IN GENEVA NEXT MONTH WITH
PAT O'FARRELL OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN LABOR CENTER.
PERRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 16-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STOCKH02091
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770173-0358
Format: TEL
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770551/aaaabsig.tel
Line Count: 129
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9f44be92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2499970
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AFL-CIO DELEGATION IN STOCKHOLM SUMMARY: AFL-CIO DELEGATION WAS CORDIALLY RECEIVED AND WELL CARED FOR BY SWEDISH UNION HOSTS DESPITE COUN
TAGS: ELAB, EAID, SW, US, XZ, ILO, AFL-CIO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9f44be92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009